Licenses for DTH services

85. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given licenses to operate the Direct to Home (DTH) services to some broadcasters; and

(b) if so, the names of such broadcasters and the terms and conditions thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shifting of Headquarters of Kashir Channel to Srinagar

86. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced to shift the administrative Headquarters of Kashir Channel to Srinagar; and

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati Board at its meeting on 11th July, 2003 has decided that the Headquarters of Kashir Channel will be at Srinagar. Further action is in progress.

Settlement of CAS

87. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the various problems and issues raised by the cable operators and the general TV viewers, that are likely to arise with the operation of the Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, what settlement has since been reached in the matter;

(c) whether Government propose to bring about any amendments

to the Cable Act, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) No amendment is proposed in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. After monitoring the position closely and after extensive discussions with various stakeholders including Broadcasters, Multi System Operators, Cable Operators, Consumer Groups, etc., it has been decided to roll out CAS in a zonal phased manner in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the entire Chennai Metropolitan area, w.e.f. 1.9.2003. The intervening period will be utilized to step up preparedness for smooth roll out of CAS and for educating and creating awareness amongst the subscribers. Notification issued on 10th July, 2003 is available on the Ministry's website, "www.mib.nic.in".

Revival of licences for Radio and T.V. sets

88. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to revive licences for radio and T.V. sets which were withdrawn some decades ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what would be the amount of licences for radio and T.V. sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dual system under CAS

†89. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers are in a great difficulty due to the dual system under CAS;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.